



Testimony of Jessica Karns  
In Opposition to R.C. 3723.081  
National Sales Director, A-Z Solutions, Inc.  
Before the Ohio House of Representatives Finance Committee  
May 6, 2019

Thank you Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chairman Scherer, Ranking Member Cera and members of the House Finance committee for allowing me to speak today.

My name is Jessica Karns and I join you today as a radon professional and as member of the ANSI/AARST National Radon Standard Review Committee.

I am here today testifying in opposition to the addition of R.C. 3723.081 into House Bill 166. The language the committee added to the bill on May 2, 2019, if enacted, would prohibit the Director of the Ohio Department of Health from requiring a licensed radon mitigation specialist to be physically present for supervision purposes when radon mitigation is performed. This addition directly conflicts with the Administrative Code, specifically, OAC rule 3701-69-02 (A) (3) AND ORC 3723.02 (A) (3). This restriction also conflicts with several national standards currently adopted by the EPA and HUD.

As you may already be aware, Radon is a dangerous, invisible gas, that is directly responsible for over 22,000 lung cancer fatalities annually. Ohio has some of the highest radon levels recorded throughout the nation. This is one of the many reasons the regulations were created and are now governed by the Ohio Department of Health. Furthermore, I can tell you from a national standpoint, Ohio's regulatory system and code have been used as an example by other states looking to initiate a state regulatory program for radon.

As a member of the national radon standards review committee, I have the opportunity to interact with radon professionals, regulators and government agencies from all over the country. On this topic there is always a consensus; licensees belong onsite while the job is taking place. Important decisions are made in the field during the installation process and require the presence of a licensee to ensure proper protocol and safety procedures are being followed. This not only protects the radon industry but also the homeowners. For this very reason, the national testing and mitigation standards all recommend physical onsite supervision by a licensee for the duration of the radon work.

Removing these regulations not only allows for untrained, unlicensed individuals to be left to make these decisions but it puts the public at risk. A significant negative side effect of an improper radon system installation is possible backdraft to a furnace. A backdraft will cause carbon monoxide to seep into a home. Ohio Revised Code currently requires the licensee to perform backdraft testing during the installation process. If the onsite requirement is taken away this and many other safety and functional protocols currently part of the Ohio Revised Code would be dismantled and left to unlicensed installers.

I not only believe removing the requirement to have a licensed radon mitigation specialist physically onsite will endanger the public, I feel the credibility of the radon industry will be damaged. I strongly recommend this language be removed from the current bill language.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony today. I welcome any questions you might have.